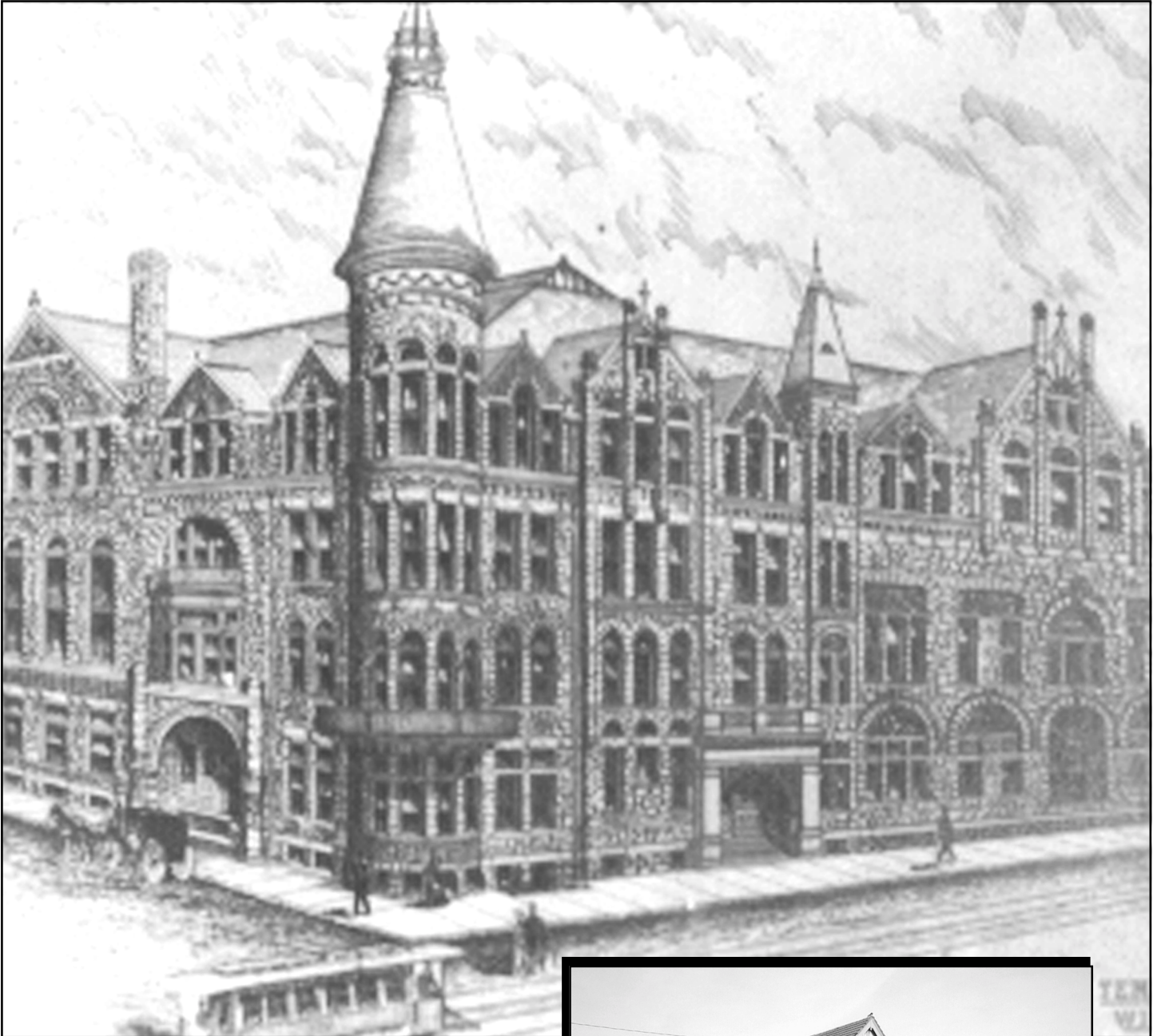


# Kansas Preservation

*Newsletter of the Cultural Resources Division ▪ Kansas State Historical Society*

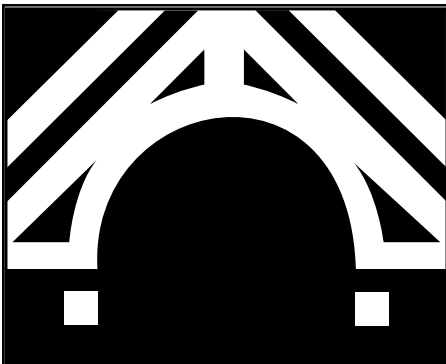


## *Yesterday and Today*

The YMCA has been a vital part of Kansas life since Topeka founded the first club in 1879. In this issue we take a look at the history of these structures, only a few of which remain as fixtures in their communities today.

***This special edition includes an eight-page insert detailing the Kansas Preservation Plan.***





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### KANSAS PRESERVATION

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# Comments Sought Regarding New Kansas Register Criteria

*The Kansas Historic Preservation Office is seeking comments on the proposed draft criteria for the Register of Historic Kansas Places. These criteria will guide the decisions concerning the eligibility of properties to the Register of Historic Kansas Places and are based upon the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places.*

*For many years, our staff has used the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places to determine eligibility for the Register of Historic Kansas Places. We now seek to formally establish separate criteria. Please take the time to review the draft criteria and forward any comments you may have to Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW 6<sup>th</sup>, Topeka, KS 66615 or (785) 272-8681 Ext. 213 or mkrass@kshs.org.*

### The Register of Historic Kansas Places Criteria

Properties that can be listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. These properties must possess qualities of significance in Kansas history, architecture, and culture. They must also possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

To be eligible for the Register of Historic Kansas Places a property must meet one or more of the criteria described below:

- A. The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history;
- B. The property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, such as a historic district; or
- D. The property yields, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. This criteria is typically associated with archeological nominations.

There are certain types of properties that ordinarily are not eligible for the Register of Historic Kansas Places. These include:

- 1) Cemeteries;
- 2) Birthplaces, or graves of historical figures;
- 3) Properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes;
- 4) Structures that have been moved from their original locations;
- 5) Reconstructed historic buildings;
- 6) Properties primarily commemorative in nature; and
- 7) Properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the Register of Historic Kansas Places. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following criteria exceptions.

In certain cases, criteria exceptions can be developed for these properties that will facilitate their listing on the Register of Historic Kansas Places. These include:

- A. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance;
- B. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event;
- C. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life;
- D. A cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events;
- E. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived;
- F. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historic significance; or
- G. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.



# Kansas Law Protects Unmarked Burials



*View of the Salina Burial Pit as it appears today. Once a tourist attraction featuring exposed human burials, it became a focal point for demands to create a law to ensure respectful treatment of the dead who are not buried in conventional cemeteries. The tourist attraction was closed, a ceremony was held, and the burials were once again covered with earth. A concrete cap was added and buried under more soil to prevent vandalism and looting.*

Imagine yourself on the construction site of your new house. A backhoe is excavating foundation footings. Something in the excavated soil catches your eye—it's a human skull. This is an unwanted and unexpected surprise. There was no mention of a cemetery in your title search, no tombstone on the property. What do you do?

Thanks to a 1989 law, the steps are set up for you. The Kansas Unmarked Burial Sites Preservation Act provides protection for unmarked burials and gives guidance when they are unexpectedly found.

The Kansas Unmarked Burial Sites Preservation Act (the UBS act for short) is the result of years of effort on the part of American Indians and archeologists. Upset over the destruction of burial mounds and by the possession of Indian skeletal remains by museums and universities, Indian groups formed nationwide and local efforts to pass legislation to protect their deceased ancestors. In Kansas, the presence of the Salina Burial Pit, a well-known tourist attraction featuring the exhibition of excavated prehistoric human burials, served as a focal point. Discussions between tribal members and arche-

ologists in a 1986 meeting eventually led to the passage of the UBS act.

The UBS act prohibits the intentional disturbance of unmarked burials on non-tribal and non-federal land in Kansas.

The law applies to all burials not otherwise protected by existing cemetery laws, including such things as isolated pioneer graves as well as Indian burial mounds. The act also prohibits the possession, display, sale, or disposal of human remains or associated grave goods unless the UBS board issues a permit to do so.

The act establishes a nine-member board that makes decisions regarding the fate of unmarked burials in the state. The board consists of the state archeologist who serves as the chair, one representative from each of the four resident tribes, a historian, a physical anthropologist, and two members from the general public. The tribal representatives serve staggered three-year terms and are appointed by the governing bodies of their tribes. With the exception of the state archeologist, the other board members are appointed by the governor and also serve staggered three-year terms. The Kansas State Historical Society administers the UBS board and is responsible for funding board activities.

The following individuals are the

current Unmarked Burial Sites board members: Ginger Barr, Auburn, representing the general public; Dr. Michael Finnegan, Manhattan, physical anthropologist; Dr. Robert J. Hoard, Topeka, state archeologist and chair of the UBS

Board; Rey Kitchkumme, Topeka, representing the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation; Patt Murphy, Salina,

representing the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska; Dr. Ron McCoy, Emporia, historian; Michael Pilcher, Hiawatha, representing the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri; Harold Reed, Salina, representing the general public; Curtis Simon, Sr., Horton, representing the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas.

The UBS act offers protection from the intentional desecration of unmarked burial sites, but sometimes unmarked burials are inadvertently discovered. For these situations, the UBS act outlines the steps that need to be taken. If a burial is unexpectedly encountered, the act directs the person discovering the burial to call the local law enforcement agency, such as the county sheriff. The law enforcement agent will either contact the coroner to determine if a criminal investigation is in order or will call the Kansas State Historical Society if it is apparent that the burial is not the result of criminal activity.

The UBS board must then determine

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*The author, Bob Hoard, is the state archeologist and chair of the Unmarked Burial Sites Preservation Board. He can be reached at (785) 272-8681 Ext. 268 or at [rboard@kshs.org](mailto:rboard@kshs.org).*

# New State Tax Credit Sparks Interest

Rehabilitation projects are springing up all across the state of Kansas, thanks to the new state rehabilitation tax credit program. The State Historic Preservation Office has received seven applications since temporary regulations were approved in September. Five of those projects are currently in progress.

Legislation enacted in April 2001 provides for a state income tax credit equal to 25 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenses on qualified historic buildings. Several projects in Kansas are taking advantage of both this new state tax credit and the 20 percent federal income tax credit that has helped make rehabilitation projects feasible for the past 25 years; however, this is not possible for all projects. The federal program requires buildings to be income-producing and meet a substantial rehabilitation requirement. Many small projects cannot meet that requirement and homeowners have been left out. The state tax credit program, however, is available for residential or commercial buildings and project costs need only exceed \$5,000.

These criteria are opening up possibilities for owners of historic properties across the state. Of the seven applications, five involve projects on residential properties and the other two involve commercial buildings. Projects include a porch stabilization, a porch reconstruction, conversion of a storefront to private living space, and renovation of office space. Other projects involve general maintenance on historic homes. Residents and business owners should find that the state tax credit provides a substantial incentive to maintain their properties.

To find out more about tax incentives for historic buildings, contact Katrina Klingaman or Christy Davis at (785) 272-8681 Ext. 240 or [cultural\\_resources@kshs.org](mailto:cultural_resources@kshs.org).

## Unmarked Burials

*Continued from page 2*

the fate of the burial. Most often, attempts will be made to leave the burial undisturbed. However, if this is not feasible, the board typically will have the burial removed, usually by the state archeologist or a designee, and taken into the custody of the Society. Analysis is carried out by a physical anthropologist to attempt to determine the kinship of the individual. Attributes of the skeleton, associated objects, or the particulars of the burial may determine the person's race and possibly even ethnicity. For example, a skeleton with teeth diagnostic of American Indians, buried with pottery typical of the Pawnees could safely be determined to be a Pawnee burial. In this instance, the UBS board would contact the Pawnee tribe and, if the burial could not be left in place, it would be excavated and steps would be taken to repatriate it to the Pawnees.

The UBS act does not apply to federal or tribal land. A similar federal act, the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), passed in 1990, governs the fate of American Indian human remains and associated burial goods. NAGPRA also mandates the return of American Indian remains in federally funded institutions to their closest living kin.

What about burials for whom no relatives or kin group can be determined?

*The UBS act offers protection from the intentional desecration of unmarked burial sites, but sometimes unmarked burials are inadvertently discovered. For these situations, the UBS act outlines the steps that need to be taken.*

Some burials are in such poor condition that it is impossible to determine much, if anything, about them other than to say they are human. For these cases, a special cemetery is being established as a final resting place. Also, a registry of unmarked burials is being established. This listing of known burial sites will help the archeology office of the Kansas State Historical Society guide land managers in their decisions to avoid or protect burials on the land for which they are responsible. Regulations to govern the UBS board's activities also are being developed.

The UBS act fills a gap in legislation to respect the sanctity of the deceased. Working in conjunction with statutes related to cemeteries, it protects the location

of known unmarked graves, provides for the dignified treatment of burials found unexpectedly, and returns the remains previously excavated to

their kin when this determination can be made.

Much good has come from the act. The Salina Burial pit was reburied following a ceremony for the deceased. Other individuals have been returned to their tribes and reburied. Much of the friction between tribal members and archeologists that reached a fevered pitch in the 1970s and 1980s has died down, and has been replaced with open dialogue. Differences still exist and they probably always will, but the enactment of the UBS law in Kansas—and NAGPRA on the national level—has gone a long way toward healing the wounds of the past.

## Farm Bill Includes Preservation Funding

The U. S. Senate Agriculture Committee approved the Agriculture, Conservation, and Rural Enhancement Act of 2001 (S. 1628) known as the Farm Bill on November 15. If passed as proposed, these components could benefit rural preservation efforts in Kansas.

This legislation includes two historic preservation-related measures: it authorizes \$25 million annually over the next five years for grant funding to protect historic barns and it also authorizes \$5 billion over the next ten years to encourage farmers to adopt conservation practices that would help to preserve historic buildings, structures, objects, and archeological sites on farmlands.



# Archeology Staff Reaches Out to the Public and Professionals



*Harold Reed and Virginia Wulfkuhle examine an impressive collection of prehistoric stone tools at the Pawnee Indian Village Artifact ID Day.*



*Children and their parents or teachers were quickly engaged by the historic items on display in the Kansas State Historical Society's booth at the Kansas State Fair. During their shift Cultural Resources Division staff members took advantage of the opportunity to promote archeology and historic preservation programs in particular.*



*Faithful KAA volunteers traveled from as far as Pratt, Hutchinson, Garnett, Atchison, Kansas City, and Minnesota to attend the Fall Fling. The wash room workers shown above washed 182 bags of water screened materials and 31 bags of artifacts from the Leavenworth County site and 2.5 boxes of artifacts from the Rice County site.*

In the past few months, members of the Society's archeology office staff have participated in a number of public outreach events. On Saturday, July 21, Public Archeologist Virginia Wulfkuhle and Laboratory Supervisor Chris Garst traveled to the Pawnee Indian Village State Historic Site (PIVSHS) near Republic to conduct an artifact identification session. They were assisted by long-time Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) members Harold and Margie Reed of Salina and Dianna Henry, part-time PIVSHS employee.

PIVSHS Administrator Richard Gould instituted the artifact ID day as an annual event several years ago, and each year it seems to draw increasing numbers of people from north-central Kansas and south-central Nebraska. Throughout the day, a steady stream of visitors brought in prehistoric stone, bone, and ceramic artifacts; historic Native American items; and even some geologic and mystery specimens.

State Archeologist Bob Hoard and Wulfkuhle were invited to participate in a similar event hosted by the Mud Creek Chapter of the KAA at the Dickinson County Heritage Center in Abilene on September 8. The informal Collectors' ID Workshop drew a small number of collectors of Native American artifacts. Harold Reed brought a sample of his personal collection to show the range of materials from area sites. Following the workshop, Hoard and Wulfkuhle accompanied two local residents to check several locations in the Enterprise vicinity that they thought were important and endangered.

Hoard, Wulfkuhle, and Records Manager Anita Frank worked a shift at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson on September 13 and 14. The Society's booth was quite popular with adults and children alike, particularly a quiz that challenged people to match historic objects with their functions. The archeology team took the opportunity to promote Kansas Archeology Week and the Kansas Archeology Training Program to an interested public.

The Society hosted the KAA Fall Fling, September 21 to 23. The lab work weekend began on Friday evening with an orientation program by Dr. Brad Logan and Jeanette Blackmar from the University of Kansas Museum of Anthropology (KUMA). On Saturday and Sunday, volunteers processed soil samples and artifacts from two sites in Leavenworth and Rice counties. (For more information about the Scott site in Leavenworth County, see "Steed-Kisker, a Prehistoric Colonial Outpost in Eastern Kansas?" by Bob Hoard in *Kansas Preservation* 23(5):9-10, 14.) Overall, 31 volunteers contributed 408 hours to the project under the supervision of Frank, Garst, Wulfkuhle, and Highway Archeologist Tim Weston.

The Plains Anthropological Conference was held in Lincoln, Nebraska, October 31-November 3. Twelve archeology staff members, two consultants with the archeology office, and one volunteer attended and, of these, ten presented papers or chaired a symposium. Presentations were "Way Down South: The Plains Village Period in Southern Kansas and Beyond" by C. Tod Bevitt, special projects archeologist (with Scott Brosowski of

*The author, Virginia Wulfkuhle, is the public archeologist at the Kansas State Historical Society.*

*Continued on page 8.*

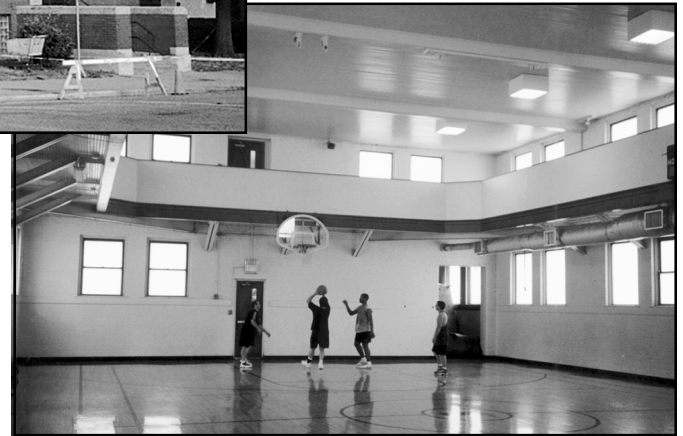
# *The History of YMCA Structures in Kansas*



*The Atchison YMCA was constructed in 1913. An addition was built to the east in 1982.*

*The gym at the Atchison YMCA is in regular use.*

*Early Kansas YMCAs provided social activities, organized athletics, and religious instruction for working men.*



“It’s fun to stay at the YMCA...”  
Most Kansans can recite the words to the classic song by the Village People. However, few know much about the history of the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA).

During its early days in Kansas, the YMCA was more than just a fun place to stay — even more than a place to exercise. Rather, in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, the acronym represented a social movement that moved town boosters, inspired by famous backers President Theodore Roosevelt and William Allen White, to erect the state’s first exercise facilities. Today, as the YMCA celebrates 150 years in the United States (1851-2001), few of the buildings that interpret the Y’s early history in Kansas remain.

The YMCA, first organized in London in 1844, came to Kansas in the late 1870s. Topeka formed the state’s first organization in 1879. By the time of the first statewide convention in 1882, Kansas was home to eight associations with membership totaling 410.

The principal purpose of the YMCA was the “improvement of the spiritual, mental, social and physical condition of young men.” During the late nineteenth century, in what has come to be called the “Era of Reform,” the movement focused its efforts in urban centers where it provided social activities, organized athletics, and religious instruction for men of the working class.

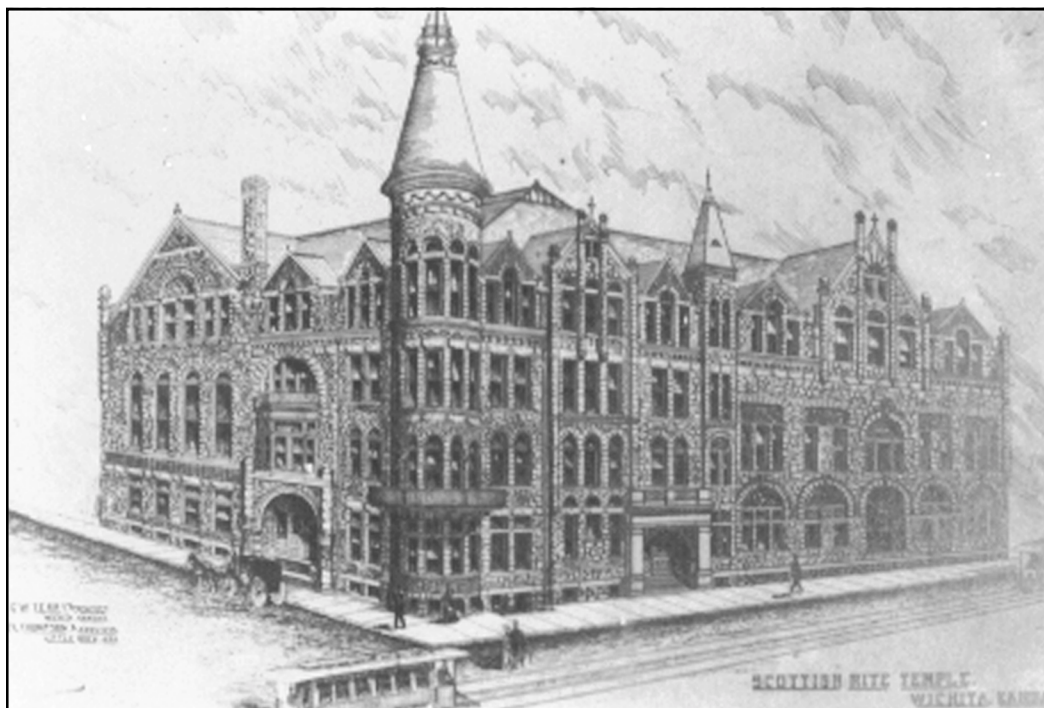
The organization took hold in the Midwest in the 1870s and 1880s and remained very strong into the early twentieth century, as is evidenced by the number of YMCA buildings constructed during that time period. Conflicting accounts name both Wichita and Marion as the first Kansas associations to construct YMCA buildings in 1888. Both communities’ members took advantage of the decade’s economic boom to raise funds for construction expenses. Marion’s building was completed at a cost of \$17,000.

Town boosters in Wichita hired the well-known architecture firm Proudfoot and Bird to design their building at a cost of \$60,000. Construction plans halted in

the 1890s when the nation suffered a major economic depression. Those who had constructed buildings in the 1880s had difficulty weathering the decade. In fact, Wichita’s chapter was forced to sell its three-story building to the Scottish Rite Masons in 1898 (Scottish Rite Temple, National Register of Historic Places).

The construction fever re-ignited with an improved economy during the first decades of the twentieth century. By 1907, statewide membership had grown to 12,416 and fourteen Kansas associations owned their own buildings. Such construction was made possible by Progressive-Era enthusiasm and railroad sponsorship. In 1908, Newton town boosters raised \$30,000 in eleven days for the construction of their YMCA building. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad donated \$20,000 toward the construction of Topeka’s \$45,000 railroad association building. Early buildings typically housed classrooms for religious instruction and gymnasia. In addition, they often housed the state’s first indoor swimming pools.





*This rendering by architect C. W. Terry depicts Wichita's Scottish Rite Temple (formerly the Wichita YMCA) from the southeast with the addition to the north that he added in 1907. The original YMCA building is the south portion which ended one bay to the north of the east entry.*

Larger Ys also featured rooms for boarders. By 1940, there were 100,000 dormitory rooms at YMCAs nationwide. Although Y dormitories in large cities housed young workers from a variety of fields, Kansas Y dormitories, principally those in Wichita and Topeka which were partially funded by railroad companies, catered to railroad employees. Promoters saw dormitories as a “place of refuge from the evils of the world.”

Grand-scale buildings were centers of Y activity in urban areas; however, this was not necessarily the case in rural Kansas. The Board of Agriculture noted in its 1917-1918 report that “some of the most successful organizations are formed where there is no edifice nor even a specific meeting place.” In 1909, Washington County became the first county to organize a YMCA association. By 1917, seven counties had formed similar associations. Rural Y associations not only focused on physical well-being but also offered classes in farm-related topics.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the YMCA turned its focus toward America's armed servicemen. The Y provided activities for men stationed at Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth with the aim of protecting soldiers from “social outcasts.”

Although the YMCA of the early twentieth century was more than just a collection of buildings, the earliest structures were interpretive of the organization's largest period of growth. Some buildings, such as the Atchison Y,

remain to interpret the Y's early period of growth. Most, however, have been lost. Many succumbed to money woes; some, located on prime downtown real estate, were demolished and replaced. Topeka's downtown Y, constructed in 1905 was closed in 1927 and demolished in 1940. Topeka's railroad Y was purchased by a lumber company in 1924 and razed for a parking lot.

*Some buildings, such as the Atchison Y, remain to interpret the Y's early period of growth. Most, however, have been lost.*

The Great Depression took a significant toll on most associations. Emporia's Y was forced to close its doors in 1938. When it finally paid off its mortgage in 1939, well-known *Emporia Gazette* Editor William Allen White set fire to the mortgage papers while a crowd of 200 sang the doxology. World War II provided a new use for the Emporia Y building and others. The U. S. Government used the Emporia Y for a Federal Manpower War Production School. The YMCA was also involved in organizing

the U. S. O. which hosted events in Y buildings statewide.

Many of the early twentieth-century Y buildings that managed to survive the depression later fell victim to “progress” in the following decades. Some historic YMCA buildings, including those in Fort Scott (built 1908) and Newton (built 1909), were demolished by Urban Renewal projects in the 1970s. Newton's was replaced by a larger “modern” recreation facility. Others, no longer supported by the railroad companies who helped build them, were demolished when railroads chose not to renew boarding contracts. Such was the fate of Coffeyville's YMCA (built 1902) in 1974.

Today the YMCA is still going strong and, needless to say, so is organized exercise. But its early history is still told through the state's few remaining early twentieth-century Y buildings. To date, the only historic YMCA building in Kansas that is listed on National Register of Historic Places is Wichita's, which became the Scottish Rite Temple.

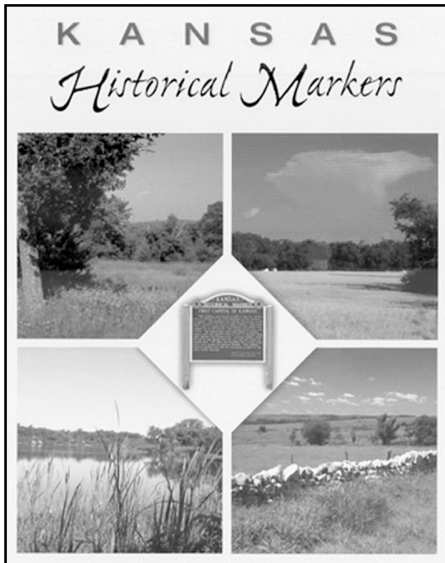
The historic YMCAs in Atchison or your home town may be eligible for listing on the National Register for their historical significance as buildings that interpret an important period in Kansas history when community cooperation resulted in the achievement of extraordinary feats.

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*This article was written by Christy Davis, a historic preservation specialist with the Kansas State Historical Society.*



# Colorful Historical Markers Booklet Available



Located all across the state, 117 historical markers tell stories of Kansas landforms and landmarks, communities, trails, commerce, missions, forts, and Civil War sites. These popular markers identify many interesting places, events, and people in Kansas. Erected by the Kansas State Historical Society and the Kansas Department of Transportation, these signs provide information about historically significant locations to travelers in the state.

A colorful new 43-page guide is now available free of charge. Guides can be requested by writing to Historical Markers Guide, Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099. Copies can be requested via e-mail to [cultural\\_resources@kshs.org](mailto:cultural_resources@kshs.org). The guide is also available at the Kansas

History Center, Kansas State Capitol, and state historic sites. Information about the guides can be found at [www.kshs.org/places/marker](http://www.kshs.org/places/marker).

The guide was written by Barbara M. Burgess and produced by staff designer Christine Ewing and photographers C. Cooper and Barry J. Worley. Funding for the publication was provided by the Transportation Enhancements program of the Federal Highway Administration through the Kansas Department of Transportation.

A map of the state is included in the guide along with images of many of the markers, descriptions of locations, and the text of each sign. The guide also groups markers into categories.

## Happenings in Kansas

### Architectural Styles Workshop

January 7-9, 2002  
Wichita-Sedgwick Co. Hist. Museum  
204 S. Main  
Wichita, KS

### Heritage Trust Fund Grant Workshop

January 11, 2002, 1 p.m.  
Koch Education Center  
Kansas History Center  
6425 S.W. Sixth Avenue  
Topeka, KS

**Heritage Trust Fund Grant  
Preliminary Application Deadline**  
January 15, 2002

**Heritage Trust Fund Grant  
Application Deadline**  
March 1, 2002

## Archeology Staff Reaches Out

*Continued from page 4*

the University of Oklahoma); "Non-Intrusive Documentation of Selected Artifacts by the Use of CAT Scans and X Rays: Examples from a NAGPRA and UBS Enhancement and Compliance Study in Kansas" and "The Osage until 1870: The Road Toward Acculturation" by Jim D. Feagins, KSHS contractor; "The Effects of Late Quaternary Landscape Evolution on the Archaeological Record of Kansas" by Rolfe D. Mandel, consulting geomorphologist; "Pleistocene-Holocene Hunters and Gatherers of the Kansas Region" by Mandel (with Jeanette Blackmar and Jack Hofman of the University of Kansas); "The Kansa and Their Remembrance of Things Past" by James O. Marshall, volunteer; "The Central Plains Tradition" and "The Pawnee in Kansas" by Donna Roper, contractor; "Kansas Lithic Resources" by Martin Stein, archeologist; "Hippie Archeology on Cow Creek: In Search of Kansas Woodstock" by Randy Thies, archeologist; and "Archeological Site Distribution in Upland Areas of Southeast Kansas: Results from the US 166 and Southeast Kansas Highway Corridors" by Weston.

Hoard and Will Banks, historic preservation office archeologist, chaired a well-attended symposium entitled "The Current State of Kansas Archaeology." This all-day session consisted of 17 papers and involved 21 authors/presenters. The symposium also served as the nucleus for an edited volume about Kansas archeology that Banks and Hoard are compiling.

Those attending the Plains Conference heard the most current information on consultation between archeologists and Indians, the applications of the Geographical Information System and remote sensing in archeology, and new developments in the region's archeology.



### KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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